

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045500
ORIGIN NEA-04

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66011
DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:FGERLACH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045500

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANA 699 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT MUSCAT DTD 16 FEB

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0699

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS:PFOR
SUBJ: PDRY AT THE CROSSROADS

1. YAR PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI MET YESTERDAY WITH PDRY
PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAY'I ALI IN QATABA, SOUTHERN YAR
BORDER TOWN WHICH WAS SCENE OF SOME OF FIERCEST FIGHTING
IN 1973 AND 74 BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. PURPOSE OF
MEETING WAS PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS WORK OF COMMITTEES WHICH
DEVISING UNITY.

2. THERE WERE REPORTS EARLIER THAT SALIM AND
AL-HAMDI HAD MET LAST MONTH IN BAYDA, ANOTHER SOUTHERN
YAR BORDER TOWN WHICH AL-HAMDI VISITED TO OPEN PROJECTS.
WE COULD NOT GET CONFIRMATION OF THIS MEETING AND TEND TO
BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT THIS IS FIRST MEETING OF TWO MEN

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NOT ON NEUTRAL GROUND, LIKE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCES OF
ALGIERS AND CARIO OR NON-ALGINED MEETINGS AT COLOMBO.
BY THIS COUNT, MEETING IS ONLY FOURTH, BUT IF PATTERN
CONTINUES MEETINGS WILL BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND REGULAR.

3. COMMENT: AL-HAMDI DID NOT MENTION TO ME THAT THIS MEETING
WAS IN OFFING WHEN I SAW HIM THREE DAYS BEFOREHAND, AND

IT IN SOME WAYS BELIES HIS CAUTIOUS STATEMENT THAT RELATIONS WITH PDRY ARE "NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD". CLEARLY THERE IS GOING TO BE CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO STATES.
AL-THAWRA HEADLINE TWO DAYS AGO ANNOUNCED THAT CONTRACT FOR TAIZ TO RAHIDA (BORDER TOWN WHICH WILL BE MAIN ENTRY FOR GOODS TRANSSHIPPED TO ADEN) HAS BEEN PUT UP FOR TENDER.
PERHAPS GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING IN QATABA IS NOT TALK OF ECONOMIC OR OTHER COOPERATION, BUT ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER IN AN ARENA WHERE THEY ONCE FOUGHT ONE ANOTHER. THIS WILL DISILLUSION LEFTISTS IN YEMEN WHO WANT MORE RADICAL REGIME IN SANA AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGE MODERATES IN PDRY.
SCOTES UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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